



**State of New Jersey**  
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May 14, 2013

TO: Chief School Administrators  
Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Karen L. Campbell, Director  
Office of Title 1

SUBJECT: Title III of ESEA Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives

This memorandum is to inform you of a change in the Title III Annual Measurement Achievement Objective (AMAO) for expected annual growth in English language proficiency for English language learners. Under Title III, Part A, Section 3122(a) of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*, the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is required to establish school district accountability for three annual measurable achievement objectives (AMAOs) for English language learners. Districts receiving Title III funds are accountable for English language learners' attainment of the following three AMAOs:

- **AMAO 1** (progress) relates to making annual increases in the number or percentage of children making progress in learning English. Progress is defined as a specific increase in the scale score points on the ACCESS for ELLs test.
- **AMAO 2** (attainment) relates to the number or percentage of children attaining English proficiency by the end of each school year.
- **AMAO 3** relates to the district meeting its progress target for the LEP subgroup at the district level.

Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, the NJDOE will change the criteria for annual expected student growth on the ACCESS for ELLs test from the current scale score increase to one based on language proficiency level growth. The proposed change is based on an analysis of multiple years' ACCESS for ELLs test score data conducted by the WIDA Consortium on behalf of the NJDOE. The new criteria will result in more rigorous standards for learning and a heightened expectation for English language growth in English language learners. The following chart demonstrates the current English language growth criteria and the new criteria.

<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>
79 percent of students will improve 10 <i>scale score points</i> or more on the ACCESS for ELLs test	59 percent of students will increase 0.5 composite proficiency level or more on the ACCESS for ELLs test

The percentage of students that will be expected to meet growth criteria will increase by one percent each year and will be capped at 80 percent.

This change will enable teachers and administrators to better understand and meet expectations because typically, students' composite proficiency levels are used when evaluating students' need for language assistance program services, English language abilities, and readiness to learn in mainstream classrooms.

If you have any questions regarding the new AMAO criteria, please contact the Office of Title 1 at (609) 292-8777 or email [lep@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:lep@doe.state.nj.us).

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